

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STR-04 AF-10 FEA-01
ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00
CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01
PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /139 W
-----114346 281942Z /42

R 281733Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0559

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY

GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN

PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC, EFIS

SUBJ: FISHERY COUNCIL, JUNE 27

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REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 5089, (B) EC BRUSSELS 6574, (C)
EC BRUSSELS 809

1. SUMMARY: THE UK MOVED AWAY FROM ITS RIGID POSITION
ON AN EXCLUSIVE 50-MILE FISHING ZONE, PAVING THE WAY
FOR PROGRESS ON AN INTERNAL EC FISHING REGIME BASED ON
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES SUBDIVIDED INTO NATIONAL QUOTAS.

HOWEVER, THE UK STILL INSISTS ON PREFERENTIAL ACCESS FOR ITS FISHERMEN IN CERTAIN ZONES (OR FOR CERTAIN SPECIES) AND IT WANTS A 12-MILE EXCLUSIVE ZONE ESTABLISHED AFTER 1982, WITH EXISTING "HISTORIC RIGHTS" FOR OTHER MEMBER STATES PHASED OUT; THUS, AGREEMENT IS STILL FAR OFF. ALSO, THE IRISH HAVE COMPLETELY RESERVED ON THE ISSUE PENDING INSTALLATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. DISCUSSIONS ON THE INTERNAL REGIME FOR FISH WILL RESUME AT THE JULY 18-19 COUNCIL OF THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS. THE REGULATION ON FISHING OFF FRENCH GUIANA WAS APPROVED WITHOUT DEBATE (SEPTEL). A QUOTA OF 53,500 TONS WAS FIXED IN PRINCIPLE FOR HERRING OFF THE WEST COAST OF SCOTLAND FOR THE PERIOD JULY 20 - DECEMBER 31, 1977 (SUBJECT TO IRISH GOVERNMENT APPROVAL). NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON NORTH SEA HERRING, HOWEVER, AND WHEN THE CURRENT BAN IMPOSE A NATIONAL BAN ON SUCH FISHING IN ITS WATERS. FISHING QUOTAS FOR MOST THIRD COUNTRIES WERE EXTENDED FOR 3 MONTHS WITH REDUCTIONS IN QUOTAS FOR EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. FOR SPAIN AND THE FAEROES, ONLY A 1-MONTH EXTENSION WAS AUTHORIZED. THE COUNCIL ALSO AUTHORIZED THE COMMISSION TO UNDERTAKE EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH MAURITANIA, SENEGAL AND GUINEA-BISSAU AIMED AT THE ESTABLISHING OF EC FISHING RIGHTS IN WEST AFRICAN WATERS. END SUMMARY.

2. INTERNAL REGIME. ALTHOUGH IT WAS KNOWN IN ADVANCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT NO AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON THE INTERNAL REGIME (BECAUSE OF THE CHANGE IN THE IRISH GOVERNMENT), WILLING TO CONSIDER OTHER APPROACHES PROVIDED THAT THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS WERE MET:

A. THAT THE REGIME WOULD ENABLE THEM TO MEET THEIR CONSERVATION GOALS.

B. THAT A 12-MILE EXCLUSIVE ZONE FOR UK FISHERMEN BE ESTABLISHED, EXTENDING BEYOND 1982 AND THAT HISTORIC RIGHTS CURRENTLY ENJOYED BY OTHER MEMBER STATES WITHIN THIS ZONE BE PHASED OUT.

C. THAT A "DOMINANT PREFERENCE" WOULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR UK FISHERMEN IN CERTAIN AREAS (OR FOR CERTAIN SPECIES) EXTENDING OUT TO 50 MILES. THEY SAID THAT THE UK ALLOCATION SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT NOT ONLY THE TRADITIONAL CATCHES OF THE UK BUT ALSO THE FACT THAT OVER 60 PERCENT OF THE COMMUNITY CATCH COMES FROM UK WATERS, AS WELL AS THE LOSSES SUSTAINED BY THE UK IN THIRD COUNTRY WATERS (PARTICULARLY ICELAND). WHILE THE SHIFT IN THE UK POSITION WOULD APPEAR TO OPEN

THE WAY FOR PROGRESS, THE UK POSITION IS STILL FAR FROM THAT OF THE OTHER MEMBER STATES. FRANCE SPOKE OUT STRONGLY AGAINST THE CONCEPT OF DOMINANT PREFERENCE AND ALSO IS OPPOSED TO TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE LOCATION OF FISHERY RESOURCES IN ALLOCATING EC CATCHES ALTHOUGH OTHER COUNTRIES, NOTABLY THE NETHERLANDS, WERE MORE AMENABLE TO THESE IDEAS. THE PHASING OUT OF HISTORIC RIGHTS IS ALSO CERTAIN TO AROUSE STIFF RESISTANCE.

3. IT NOW APPEARS THAT THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON APPROACHING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNAL REGIME FOR FISHERIES THROUGH THE MECHANISM OF TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES SUBDIVIDED INTO NATIONAL QUOTAS (ALTHOUGH THE IRISH HAVE COMPLETELY RESERVED THEIR POSITION ON THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00
CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01
PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /139 W
-----114522 281942Z /42

R 281733Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0560
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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QUESTION PENDING THE INSTALLATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT). FOUR MAIN PROBLEM AREAS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND COREPER HAS BEEN ASKED TO EXAMINE THESE AND PREPARE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS AT THE JULY 18-19 MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS. HOWEVER, NO DECISION IS EXPECTED AT THIS MEETING AND ANOTHER SPECIAL FISHERY COUNCIL IS FORESEEN FOR LATE SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER. THESE FOUR AREAS ARE:

A. CRITERIA TO BE USED FOR ESTABLISHING NATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUOTAS.

B. PRIORITY ACCESS FOR CERTAIN FISHERMEN OR CERTAIN COUNTRIES WITH REGARD TO CERTAIN SPECIES OR ZONES. BOTH THE COMMISSION AND THE UK HAVE ADVANCED THE CONCEPT THAT CERTAIN ZONES SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR LOCAL FISHERMEN IN REGIONS WHERE FISHING REPRESENTS THE ONLY POSSIBLE ECONOMIC RESOURCE.

C. EXCLUSIVE COASTAL BELTS. THE PROBLEM IS WHETHER THESE BELTS OF 6-12 MILES SHOULD BE CONTINUED AFTER 1982 AND IF SO, UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS.

D. UNILATERAL CONSERVATION MEASURES. THE UK AND IRELAND WANT TO RETAIN THE AUTHORITY TO TAKE UNILATERAL CONSERVATION MEASURES IN THE EVENT THAT THE COMMUNITY REGIME IS NOT EFFECTIVE.

4. HERRING. THE COUNCIL DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE ON A QUOTA OF 53,500 TONS FOR HERRING CAUGHT IN THE AREA OFF THE WEST COAST OF SCOTLAND (39,000 TONS IS ALLOCATED TO THE UK). THIS QUOTA WILL BE IN EFFECT FROM JULY 20 TO THE END OF THE YEAR. CURRENTLY THERE IS A BAN ON HERRING FISHING IN THIS REGION (REF. A). THE COUNCIL DECISION IS SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE NEW IRISH GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE FORTHCOMING AT THE JULY 18-19 COUNCIL MEETING. THE HERRING QUOTA FOR THIRD COUNTRIES IN THIS REGION WILL BE ESTABLISHED THROUGH BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT IT MAY BE IN THE AREA OF 6,000 - 7,000 TONS.

5. AFTER RATHER HEATED DEBATE THE COUNCIL WAS UNABLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON AN ARRANGEMENT FOR HERRING IN THE NORTH SEA. THE COMMISSION, SUPPORTED BY THE UK,

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AND TO A LESSER EXTENT IRELAND, HAS DEMANDED A TOTAL BAN ON HERRING FISHING IN THIS REGION THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR. THE OTHER MEMBER STATES--AND MOST ADAMANTLY DENMARK--COULD NOT ACCEPT THIS BAN. IN THE FACE OF THIS STANDSTILL, THE UK DELEGATION ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER TAKING NATIONAL CONSERVATION MEASURES WHEN THE CURRENT BAN ON NORTH SEA HERRING EXPIRES ON JUNE 30. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE UK WILL LEAVE IN EFFECT NATIONAL LEGISLATION BANNING HERRING FISHING IN THE NORTH SEA AFTER JUNE 30. THIS ACTION COULD BE JUSTIFIED UNDER THE HAGUE AGREEMENT (SINCE IT WOULD BE NONDISCRIMINATORY). ALSO, SINCE THIS MEASURE WOULD BE IN LINE WITH THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL, THE COMMISSION WOULD PRESUMABLY GIVE ITS BLESSING TO THE UK ACTION.

6. U.S. FISHERY OFF FRENCH GUIANA. THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE REGULATION CONCERNING FISHING OFF FRENCH GUIANA (SEE SEPTTEL).

7. QUOTAS FOR THIRD COUNTRIES. THE COUNCIL AGREED TO EXTEND EXISTING QUOTAS FOR PORTUGAL, FINLAND, AND SWEDEN FOR AN ADDITIONAL 3-MONTH PERIOD THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30 (REF. B). QUOTAS FOR SPAIN AND THE FAEROE ISLANDS, HOWEVER, WERE EXTENDED FOR ONLY 1 MONTH TO JULY 31. THE DECISION TO EXTEND THE QUOTA FOR SPAIN BY ONLY 1 MONTH RESULTS PRIMARILY FROM COMPLAINTS ABOUT SPANISH NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THE QUOTA. WITH THE SPANISH ELECTIONS UPPERMOST IN MIND, THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY MADE NO EFFORT TO RESTRICT THE ACTIVITIES OF THEIR FISHERMEN TO MEET THE LIMITS SET BY THE EC. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT SEEMS TO BE GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE EXISTING QUOTA ARRANGEMENT FOR SPAIN IS NOT EQUITABLE--APPARENTLY NOT ADEQUATELY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE SMALL SIZE OF SPANISH BOATS--AND THERE IS SOME FEELING THAT THE ARRANGEMENT WITH SPAIN COULD BE IMPROVED IN THE NEXT AS A WAY OF STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY'S POSITION IN

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PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /139 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0561
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THAT COUNTRY DURING JULY.

8. ACCORDING TO A BELGIAN PERMREP OFFICIAL, QUOTAS FOR
THE USSR, POLAND, AND THE GDR WERE CUT BACK SIGNIFICANTLY
(REF. B). THE USSR IS TO RECEIVE ONLY 15 LICENSES
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, THE GDR IS TO RECEIVE 5, AND POLAND
4. THESE LICENSE TOTALS ARE BASED UPON VESSELS BETWEEN
2,000 AND 3,500 TONS; AND THE EC WILL MAKE ALLOWANCES
FOR GREATER NUMBERS OF LICENSES FOR SMALLER VESSELS
THROUGH THE CONVERSION FACTOR CURRENTLY IN FORCE FOR
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DETERMINATION OF NUMBERS OF EAST EUROPEAN VESSELS ALLOWED
ACCESS TO EC WATERS. PREVIOUS LICENSE TOTALS FOR THESE
THREE COUNTRIES (AGAIN ON THE BASIS OF 2,000 - 3,500
TON VESSELS) HAD BEEN SET BY THE COUNCIL IN JANUARY AT
27 (USSR), 6 (GDR), AND 5 (POLAND)--SEE REF. C.

9. DISTRIBUTION OF NORWEGIAN QUOTAS. ALTHOUGH THIS ITEM WAS PLACED ON THE AGENDA, IT DID NOT IN FACT REQUIRE ANY COUNCIL ACTION. NORWAY INFORMED THE EC SHORTLY BEFORE THE START OF THE MEETING THAT, EXCEPT FOR GREENLAND HALIBUT, THE EC HAD ALREADY EXHAUSTED THE QUOTAS ALLOCATED TO IT. GREENLAND HALIBUT IS FISHED ENTIRELY BY THE UK. NORWAY WILL NOT SET NEW QUOTAS UNTIL OCTOBER.

10. THE COUNCIL AUTHORIZED THE COMMISSION TO CONDUCT EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH MAURITANIA, SENEGAL AND GUINEA-BISSAU WITH A VIEW TOWARD ESTABLISHING EC FISHING RIGHTS IN WEST AFRICA WATERS. THESE COUNTRIES HAVE RECENTLY EXTENDED THEIR FISHING ZONE TO 200 MILES, CREATING DIFFICULTIES FOR EC AND PARTICULARLY ITALIAN FISHERMEN. EC DISCUSSIONS WITH THESE COUNTRIES ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN BEFOR JULY 15, AND THE COMMISSION WILL BE SEEKING FORMAL NEGOTIATING MANDATES FROM THE COUNCIL IN THE FALL. MORRIS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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